

Waters for his extraordinary vision to establish Operation Outdoor Freedom which is sponsored by Florida Commissioner of Agriculture, Adam Putnam. Recently, Mr. Waters announced his retirement from service with Operation Outdoor Freedom.

Mr. Waters and his wife realized the need for a program to give back to wounded warriors coming back from war. By encouraging all of his friends to donate time, money, property, and gifts, they started the program that was then called the Wounded Warrior Sportsman Fund. Operation Outdoor Freedom provides wounded veterans with outdoor activities that they enjoy at no cost. This program has evolved from the first single outing to over 70 chapters statewide. Operation Outdoor Freedom grants wounded veterans a unique opportunity for recreation and rehabilitation. By creating an atmosphere so that wounded warriors can spend time with like-minded veterans, Operation Outdoor Freedom has changed many lives for the better.

I am truly grateful for Ned Waters' work to provide opportunities to wounded veterans and Purple Heart Recipients who have fought to defend our freedom. Our community and our state are better due to his service.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CHUCK KAVANAUGH

**HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2016*

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Charles J. "Chuck" Kavanaugh as he retires after 20 years as Executive Vice President of the Building Industry Association of Greater Louisville, formerly the Home Builders Association of Louisville.

For two decades, Chuck has helped construct and remodel houses throughout Louisville—places where families can build their own foundation for a successful future. He has also worked with businesses large and small to help grow and expand their factories, office buildings, and workspaces, creating jobs and significantly impacting our local economy.

Under his leadership, the Building Industry Association of Louisville has become second-largest of the nearly 700 homebuilders groups affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders. And his hard work and success have not gone unnoticed by the NAHB, who have previously named him "Executive Officer of the Year" and President of the Association's Executive Officers Council, a position he attained after being elected by his peers.

Throughout his career at the Building Industry Association of Greater Louisville—and previously as Vice President of the former Louisville Area Chamber of Commerce—Chuck has spent his life helping others. He is also a Founder of the Building Industries' Charitable Foundation, where he has dedicated his time and effort to their important partnership with YouthBuild and Kosair Charities.

I want to thank Chuck for his dedication to our community, his service to homeowners and business owners throughout our city, and—above all—his advice and friendship during all these years. On behalf of the people of Kentucky's Third Congressional District and

the City of Louisville, I extend my best wishes to Chuck as he begins his much-deserved retirement.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JIM COSTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2016*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I inadvertently voted 'aye' for the Clarifying Congressional Intent in Providing for DC Home Rule Act of 2016 (Roll Call No. 248) when my intention was to vote 'no' on the legislation. I support local budget autonomy for the District of Columbia.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. STEPHEN HANKE ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2016*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Dr. Stephen Hanke on the occasion of his retirement after 44 years of dedicated public service as an educator.

Dr. Hanke served as a teacher, principal, and assistant superintendent in four school districts before being appointed as Superintendent of the Dublin Unified School District (DUSD) in 2006. Under his stewardship, DUSD has attained unprecedented levels of achievement.

DUSD saw its Academic Performance Index (API) climb every year during his tenure to an all-time high of 904 in 2013, the last year the API was measured by California. As the new Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC) scores were released last fall, DUSD was once again among the highest-performing school districts in the state.

Dr. Hanke successfully transformed the culture and defined DUSD's core values by creating and implementing the Vision 20/20 Strategic Plan. DUSD became focused on continuous improvement through the development of a Professional Learning Community. As a result, six schools earned the distinction of being named a California Distinguished School.

Under Dr. Hanke's leadership, DUSD also created a STEM Enrichment Academy and emerged as a regional leader in putting technology in the classrooms. The infusion of STEM combined with some of the state's most rigorous graduation requirements have made students more prepared for college and career success than ever before.

In addition, Dr. Hanke's tenure coincided with a period of rapid expansion, as he oversaw 40 modernization projects and the addition of three elementary schools and a middle school. The signature enhancements were \$120 million of renovation and expansion at Dublin High School, which is now regarded as one of the premier campuses in California. Despite the pressures of managing growth, DUSD maintained financial stability even through the most difficult times.

Dr. Hanke has fostered lasting, productive partnerships in the community and has laid the groundwork for an ever-expanding offering

of programs and opportunities for all Dublin students. I wish to congratulate him on his long and distinguished career, and wish him health and happiness in retirement.

#### HONORING THE SERVICE AND MEMORY OF WORLD WAR II SOLDIER SECOND LIEUTENANT OWEN BAYLISS COFFMAN

**HON. RAUL RUIZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2016*

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and memory of World War II hero and soldier, Second Lieutenant Owen Bayliss Coffman of Palm Springs, California. His remarkable life was cut short when he answered our nation's call to service in the Second World War. It is my intention to honor the memory of this hero by recording the history of his service to our great country.

Owen Bayliss Coffman was born on February 1, 1920 in Palm Springs, California to Owen Earl and Helen Ann Bayliss Coffman. Owen attended school in Palm Springs, completing his primary school education at Frances Stevens School. For four years, Owen rode a bus from Palm Springs to Banning High School, where he graduated in 1938. He left our Coachella Valley to attend Stanford University where he earned a bachelor's degree in 1942. Owen strongly desired to serve his country in uniform, and a bad back that never healed correctly after breaking it at the age of 20 almost kept him from military service. While at Stanford, Owen enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps and came to active duty in 1943. Owen completed his basic training in Santa Ana, California and completed his flight training at March Field. He earned his wings in Yuma, Arizona and was awarded the rank of second lieutenant. Owen and his crew shipped off to Peterborough, England. On his second bombing mission over Poland, his crew was recalled over the North Sea. His plane went down due to inclement weather. Of the ten men on his plane, seven were killed and three parachuted to safety. Owen sacrificed his life in service to our country.

Owen was buried at the American Military Cemetery near Cambridge. His grandmother wished for his remains to stay in England, saying, "Leave him in the land of my ancestors, where he will forever be honored with his fallen comrades."

Mr. Speaker, Owen Bayliss Coffman is an American hero whose life and service deserve to the fullest extent our abilities to honor him. It is with my deepest respect that I commend and remember this brave young man from Palm Springs. Owen joined hands with countless other patriots to safeguard the freedoms we enjoy. He is a shining example to all of us, and it is my sincere hope that by preserving his memory, we inspire a new generation to look to Second Lieutenant Owen Bayliss Coffman's shining example of self-less service, patriotism, and dedication to freedom.